

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By
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Ladies and Gentlemen. The Middle East is not the only place in world that is in turmoil tonight because so is Washington, D. C., and so is London, England. The White House has seen its busiest day in a long, long time, perhaps the busiest day since President Eisenhower took office.

It began with a meeting of the National Security Council the first thing this morning, although at that stage of the game there was so little information that no intelligent appraisal of the situation was possible. Later Secretary of State Dulles and Vice President Nixon joined the President and considered the meager dispatches, most of them based on announcements by the Iraq rebel forces themselves, and that's not too reliable from the factual standpoint. So far as normal commercial communications are concerned, the capital city of Baghdad is totally cut off from the rest of the world, and Secretary Dulles had less information from his diplomatic sources than the press associations had. I might explain, Ladies and Gentlemen, if I sound a little out of breath, I am. The Shrine convention is on here in Chicago and I got in an elevator jam getting here and arrived only about 30 seconds before the broadcast.

Getting back to these problems in the Middle East, however, it seems to be agreed that the pro-Western government of King Faysal has been overthrown in a coup d'etat that was carefully timed for 4 a.m. this morning, Iraq time, and the rebels claim to be in complete control of the country, although dispatches in the last hour have stated that loyal nationalist troops from outside Baghdad are marching on the city to take it back from the rebels.

Also, from neighboring Jordan, King Husayn has declared himself the monarch also of Iraq under the provisions of the Arab federation treaty of February 14 of this year--the anti-Nasir Arab combination which provided that when a ruler of either country is absent from his throne the other ruler is to assume the rulership of both countries. Additional reports quote King Husayn as stating that he is taking positive action

to put down the Iraq rebellion, which would seem to mean that he must be moving in with his own armies, and such a move might well set off the tinderbox.

Both in London and in Washington, the atmosphere has been extremely tense in governmental circles. President Eisenhower was grave faced when he finally ended the conference with Mr. Dulles and Vice President Nixon at noon. He had a very quick lunch, went back to his office, where the White House staff had summoned some 22 Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders to discuss the developments with them. They were the ranking members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Armed Services Committee of both houses, and some additional over-all leaders. That little huddle lasted for two hours and twenty minutes and when it broke up late this afternoon, the only thing the participants would say about what transpired was that they had conferred about the Middle East crisis, but that no decisions had been made. The reaction in Congress generally was troubled, with a suffusion of angry criticism even from loyal Republicans.

In the first place, most members want to know where the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency, was once again. It is very reliably reported that the CIA, which is headed by Secretary Dulles' younger brother Allen, was caught once again completely by surprise in the Baghdad development as it has been caught completely by surprise on too many past occasions, and there is a rising clamor for a general investigation of that organization with a view to a complete reorganization. That, incidentally, is long and urgently overdue, but the chances of getting any such investigation are just about nonexistent, because Allen Dulles always screams that this would destroy his organization and his operations, it would jeopardize the security and safety of his agents over the world. I don't know whether you realize it or not, but Congress cannot get any information at all out of the CIA about its affairs, about how much money it spends, or how it spends that money, which is about as unhealthy a situation as one could dream up in its potentialities in every connection. It's an invitation to inefficiency, to corruption, to sabotage, and even treason. But the President and the secretary of state back up this insistence by Mr. Allen Dulles every time there is a threat of investigation, and thus far Mr. Dulles has succeeded in avoiding any such investigations.

Now I am able to report to you authoritatively, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the meeting at the White House this afternoon between the President and the Congressional leaders, that

meeting was informed this afternoon that the President is prepared to send armed American forces into Lebanon under the Eisenhower Doctrine, which at the moment seems to look rather limp, and they were informed that an announcement to that effect would be made shortly; it will be made within the next couple of hours that troops are being sent into Lebanon. President Chamoun has made formal requests for such assistance and, under the Eisenhower Doctrine, those troops can be sent in provided they are requested; as a matter of fact it is probable that the marines may be landing at the present time in Lebanon. They certainly will be within the next hour or so.

Up to now the attitude has been that no troops can be sent into Iraq because King Faysal has not made any such request either because he may be dead, as originally reported, or because now it appears that he may be being held captive. But in either case it seems rather silly under the arrangement by which the king of one country becomes the king of both countries; it seems very obvious that King Faysal could make the request for American help for Iraq too, but that was not the position that Washington has been taking thus far. In fact, Washington seems painfully undecided about any positions at all, which was a major reason for most of the Congressional criticism.

There has been some vague talk about trying to get some action in the United Nations, but most sources dismiss this as totally futile. The first broadcast said that King Faysal, Crown Prince Abd al-Ilah, and Premier Nuri Said had all been killed and that the body of the crown prince had been dragged through the Baghdad streets by riotous mobs. This version was broadcast only once, however, by the rebels, and all later broadcasts omitted any mention of the King and the prime minister --which could of course mean that they are still alive, possibly holed up in the royal palace being protected by still loyal bodyguard troops.

The irony of all this is that some \$46,000,000 worth of foreign aid military assistance which we have given to Iraq since 1954 has gone down the drain together with about two and a half million dollars a year in economic aid; and for all the big talk about how the foreign give-away operations are necessary to combat the spread of Communism, it not only has not done the job in Iraq but the very materials we have given the Iraq Government have now fallen into the hands of the Communists. We have supplied them in the last four years with tanks, guns, small arms, ammunition, trucks, and some field guns, all of which now will be turned against us. That is precisely what the more cautious critics of foreign aid have warned all along

was likely to happen; here it is in full life, and Iraq was supposed to have been the strongest ally and supporter of the Western nations that we had in the Middle East.

By way of demonstration of the chain reaction that these events have, the rebels in Lebanon made great capital of the Iraq coup and used it as a rallying point over radio to whip up their own followers into new terrorism.

There is a news bulletin, a new bulletin just in, which says that the President has asked for an immediate emergency meeting of the UN Security Council as early as possible tomorrow morning, which means nothing at all because Russia is a member of the Security Council with a veto and thus in a position to nullify anything that may be proposed.

Boiling down the whole precarious picture, it simply comes to the fact that dollar diplomacy and self-perpetuating bureaucracy in Washington in reaping the whirlwind of a totally bankrupt foreign policy that has never been anything but bankrupt from the beginning--never will be. It's a bureaucracy of incompetence and entrenched position and protected sinecures, with those who think they are running the show from the top as total captives. Mr. Dulles is not secretary of state, even though he carries that title. He is the slave of the great octopus of organized foreign service which merely speaks through him and makes its own decisions and develops the world situation as it sees fit.

I don't mean to say that Mr. Dulles is not making the decisions of this immediate moment because, together with the President, he is. It is Mr. Eisenhower, after all, who had to actually grant the request of President Chamoun and give the orders for troops and marines to go into Lebanon. But this is merely the culmination of months and years of foreign service operations from day to day and it is their operations that have driven the country into this dollar diplomacy and foreign give-away stuff that has utterly failed to work successfully and thus has brought about the present crisis. The reason nothing definitive was proposed this afternoon so far as Iraq is concerned was that Mr. Dulles admitted frankly that he simply doesn't know what the situation is there and can't find out. He said the American Embassy had been sealed off and isolated by troops, unable to get any messages out or receive any in.

The navy said that two battalions of marines, 3,600 men, are in the eastern Mediterranean ready to land on a moment's

notice. The third bataillion is just starting home after a full tour of duty--probably will be turned around and sent back to the eastern Mediterranean. The landing force in Lebanon will include troops as well as marines, will be supported by naval air and air force contingents. The naval forces in the Mediterranean are the Sixth Fleet under the command of Vice Admiral Charles R. Brown.

All of this, of course, is not helping the cause of the President's new foreign aid program--foreign aid appropriation bill. It's up for early Senate consideration. The collapse in Iraq is hardly much of an argument for the effectiveness of the foreign aid program as a foreign policy.